

4 February, 1970

London

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

Dear Art,

Enclosed is a letter received from Howie this morning which struck like a bolt out of the blue. It is rather difficult at this distance to know what to do or to say. As indicated in an earlier letter to you, my hope was to retire under you. My programmed date for retirement as given to me just before I left in 1968 is in the fall of 1972, at age 59, and that date gives me only 29 years of employment with the federal government. To be told in February 1970 that there is probably no place for me on my return in the fall of 1970 after two years overseas, and suggesting early retirement as practically the only way out, comes as a severe blow, especially at this distance on such short notice.

The disability angle is not very strong since I feel that I enjoy excellent health, and many other people are retained in service having suffered only the loss of the sight of one eye.

I don't quite know how to take Howie's letter unless it is that he was appointed the executioner.

In addition to facing the move back to the States, considering the problems of getting the house reopened in Silver Spring, acquiring wheels once again, etc., my greatest concern is that I still have a son and a daughter in college, with Charles having two more years to go to graduation.

When I first joined the Agency, retirement age was set at 65, and this has been whittled down through 62 to 60 to 59, and now 57 in my case. To say the least, this has made planned retirement most uncertain, and any systematic planning impossible. From all indications, retirement is apparently a traumatic experience for many. Under ordinary circumstances, I don't think it would have been a difficult adjustment for me. What does make it particularly difficult at this time is the perhaps unwarranted feeling of being forced out with a rather disheartening physical handicap

being used by the Agency as a lever.

The sight handicap was hard enough to adjust to, without also having to accept it as a reason for being expedited out, particularly when one feels so physically fit, in every other way. Add to this the liking that I have for the work, and the situation becomes even harder to comprehend.

Please do not misunderstand me, as I certainly do not expect to go on forever.

The suddenness of this notice leaves us rather dumbfounded. We had been planning in accordance with the programmed retirement in 1972 at age 59 which would just see Charles through graduation in June 1972 and permit us time back in the States to complete our retirement arrangements for moving back to the middle west. At this point in time, our plans seem on the verge of disintegration. In being able to continue as Maryland residents, completion of college would not be too great a problem. If at this time, however, we have to retrench due to a sudden cut in income by 50%, you can see what we mean by our plans disintegrating. This is far worse than retiring after having tried to do a good job, and receiving a gold watch on the way out. If this is the way one is treated after trying for years to contribute constructively to a cause in which he believes, then perhaps society is sick.

There is nothing in God's green earth wrong with me except, through no choice of mine, the loss of an eye. Surely I don't have to go on the shelf because of that. I feel that I did a creditable job with the forerunner of IAS when we had twice the people to handle, and covered subject matter across the board, while undergoing rapid expansion and change. Surely I have at least two more years of experienced usefulness in my chosen field of endeavor.

We have no other source of income to fall back on and desperately need the two year period to 1972 to put into effect our retirement plans. In his letter, Howie closed the door on IAS, OTR, and the retirement counselling office. The NPIC door was not completely shut. Therefore I am writing you asking that every consideration be given to the possibility of being offered something at NPIC. The dearth of super grades is the

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which I am apparently blocking. I am confident that I have the experience and capability to do a good job for you.


My general health has never been better and I fail to see that because I may be blocking a supergrade, and have a sight handicap, not unique in business, that I have suddenly become incapable of making any worthwhile contribution even at a GS 15 level.

I have never entertained any illusions about returning to IAS, I have not requested to return to IAS, nor do I have the slightest desire to do so. All I am asking is to complete my service at the Agency with NPIC.

In the past two years we have been actively making plans toward retirement. The less than five months between now and our return to the States plus a 'brief temporary return retention period' if it could be arranged as referred to in Howie's letter, simply would not provide half the time necessary to begin to put into action the major arrangements necessary for retirement, as well as trying to make other plans for Pat and Charles to complete their college education.

STAT I have not responded to Howie's letter which came this morning, nor am I writing to nor any of the others suggested by Howie. I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Howie and you are free to show this to any of the others. I will await your reply before taking any further action.

Jane and I enjoyed hearing from you last week and are delighted to know that you had a chance to enjoy Michigan during the Christmas holidays. We hope all continues well with you and yours. Jane sends her love to Mary.


Sincerely yours,